

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16705 101714Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16705

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG AF PDIP
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS

1. DURING CALL JULY 10 BY POLCOUNS, DIRECTOR MFA ASIAN DEPARTMENT OMAR SHARAF SAID GOE FOUND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. FIRING AND TRANSFER OF DEPUTY PRIMIN BARAK KABAL AS AMBASSADOR TO PRAGUE AND MININT NUR AHMAD AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON REPRESENTED ATTEMPT BY PRESIDENT TARAHI TO AVOID ALIENATING ISLAMIC ELEMENTS AND WAS FAVORABLE SIGN FOR THE FUTURE. (SHARAF ADDED THAT MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHOHE CLAIMED WAS MISTRESS OF KABAL, BEING SENT AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGRADE TO BE NEAR HIM.)

2. SHARAF SAID AFGHAN REQUEST TO EGYPT THAT IT PROVIDE ISLAMIC AND ARABIC TEACHERS FROM AL AZHAR MAY ALSO BE SIGNIFICANT. IN SHARAF'S VIEW, U.S. POLICY OF KEEPING DOORS OPEN TO TARAHI GOVERNMENT, AS EVIDENCED BY UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S VISIT, WAS JUST RIGHT AND
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SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIES, SHARAF RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF SAUDIS OR OTHER GULF STATES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE THEY PUT ALL LEFTISTS FROM PARCHAM AND KHALQ IN SAME CATEGORY OF RED MENACE AND WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM. SHARAF SAID PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO HELP FINANCE EGYPTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS. HE DID NOT SAY

GOE HAD DECIDED TO SUPPLY THEM, BUT ONLY THAT HE HAD
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED IT DO SO. EILTS

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